

[7th February 1924]

*The Periyar scheme.*

264 Q.—Mr. M. RATNASWAMI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state what stage the Periyar scheme for generating power has reached and what the claims are of the Irrigation Department which the promoters of the scheme have found unacceptable?

A.—The concession which was granted to Mr. A. H. Garrett, Retired Chief Engineer, in November 1919, and subsequently taken over by a Syndicate composed of Messrs. Alfred Dickinson & Co., Limited, and others, has just been determined as the concessionaires have failed to promote a company with the requisite capital. Government are not aware of any claims of the Irrigation Department which the promoters found unacceptable.

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—“ May I ask the hon. the Law Member whether he has dealt with Mr. Cotton’s industrial report attached to the last administration report where a view is expressed that on account of the difficulties expressed by the Irrigation Department, the Periyar irrigation works could not be dealt with? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“ I have got Mr. Cotton’s opinion, but, so far as anything depends upon the Member in charge of electric power, all that I can say is that no one is more anxious than myself to develop electricity in the South of India and that every facility will be given to *bona fide* attempts in that direction.”

*The modified Tungabhadra project.*

265 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. VENKATARANGA REDDI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (a) whether there is under the consideration of the Government any project known as the modified Tungabhadra project;
- (b) whether it has been investigated or is still under investigation;
- (c) if it is under investigation, the time when it will be completed;
- (d) the districts which will be benefited by that project; and
- (e) the probable extent of land in each district that will be served by that project?

A.—In connexion with the scheme for a reservoir on the Kistna at Sangameswaram proposed by the late Chief Engineer on Special Duty (Mr. A. V. Ramalinga Ayyar) a proposal has been made to utilize the Tungabhadra waters for the irrigation of 200,000 acres of land in the Bellary district. The latter scheme can be taken up for consideration only after the results of the preliminary investigation now in progress in connexion with the former are known.

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—“ May I enquire, Sir, whether the modified Tungabhadra project is successful? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“ It depends upon the balance of convenience and the balance of advantages. The Sangameswaram project which has now been reported upon, and whose success depends upon the concurrence of His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, will give more lasting benefits.”

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Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—“ May I enquire, Sir, whether the original Tungabhadra project, which was estimated to cost about 13 crores and which was deferred with reference to some other schemes, has been completely given up ? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ If this Sangameswaram project is abandoned, that will hold the field.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“ May I enquire, Sir, whether the Tungabhadra project was shelved by Mr. Morgan ? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Mr. Morgan gave a fairly definite answer after his investigations went up to a certain stage. It was because of his advice that the Government have now taken a different view of its possibilities and are exploring it, and we have invoked the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India to strengthen us in the matter of expert opinion.”

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—“ Am I to take it, Sir, that the Sangameswaram project means the definite abandonment of the modified Tungabhadra project ? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ It will include the old portions of the Tungabhadra project.”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“ Will it benefit the Bellary district, Sir ? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Yes.”

*The Nagavali project.*

266 Q.—The RAJA OF KURUPAM : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether it is under the consideration of the Government to extend the Nagavali project—

(a) by opening a head sluice in the right bank of the river opposite the one in existence in the left bank and by digging fresh channels so as also to irrigate the lands of the villages situated to the south of the river as far as the Suvarnamukhi generally known as Seethanagram river ; and

(b) by constructing a reservoir across the Janjhavati at a place higher up Gumpa where this river joins with the Nagavali and below Narayana-patnam or another between Chollapadam and Rayaghada ?

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the report on the project on page 9 of Mr. Morgan's Report on Irrigation Projects already placed on the Table.

*The masonry dam at Agalangon.*

267 Q.—Mr. C. MARUTHAVANAM PILLAI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(1) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the masonry dam built by the French at Agalangon across the Arasalar has seriously impaired the capacity of the river as a source of irrigation and drainage owing to the absence of screw shutters and sand-scouring vents for the said dam ; and